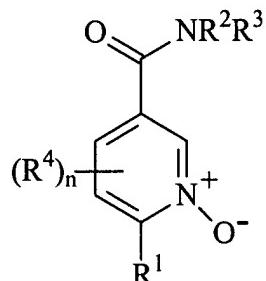


Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure (I):



(I)

and optical isomers, diastereomers, enantiomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

R¹ is selected from R⁵ and R⁵-(C₁-C₆heteroalkylene)- where R⁵ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring and substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle aliphatic ring, substituted or unsubstituted amino or hydroxy;

R² is hydrogen;

R³ is substituted or unsubstituted aryl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl(alkylene);

each occurrence of R⁴ is independently selected from halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring and substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle aliphatic ring, substituted or unsubstituted amino or hydroxy; and

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

provided, however, that when R³ is phenyl, R⁴ can not be halogen at the 4-position of the pyridine ring, and that when n is 0, and R³ is phenyl optionally substituted or phenyl substituted by methoxycarbonyl, R¹ can not be selected from R⁵ where R⁵ is hydrogen.

2. – 3. (Previously Cancelled)

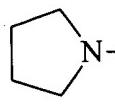
4. (Previously Amended) A compound of claim 1 wherein n is 0 or 1.

5. (Original) A compound of claim 4 wherein R¹ is R⁵-SO₂⁻ and R⁵ is selected from alkyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, carbocycle, aryl(alkylene), and carbocycle(alkylene).

6. (Original) A compound of claim 5 wherein, for R⁵, alkyl is C₁-C₁₀alkyl; heteroalkyl is C₁-C₁₀alkyl with 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S; aryl is phenyl, substituted phenyl, naphthyl or substituted naphthyl; carbocycle is C₃-C₈carbocycle; and alkylene is C₁-C₁₀alkylene.

7. (Original) A compound of claim 5 wherein R¹ is selected from (C₁-C₆alkyl)SO₂⁻, PhSO₂⁻, fluorinatedphenylSO₂⁻, PhCH₂SO₂⁻, cyclopentylSO₂⁻, m-carboxyphenylSO₂⁻, m-methylphenylSO₂⁻, and HOOC-(C₁-C₄alkylene)SO₂⁻.

8. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from halogen, amino, hydrocarbylamino, dihydrocarbylamino, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio, heterocyclyl, (heteroalkyl)amino, and (heteroaryl)amino.

9. (Original) A compound of claim 7 wherein R¹ is selected from amino, (C₁-C₆alkyl)(C₁-C₆alkyl)amino, PhNH-, PhCH₂NH-,  ,  , and HOCH₂CH₂NH-.

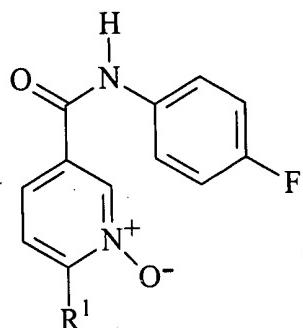
10. (Original) A compound of claim 8 wherein R¹ is selected from halide and (C₁-C₆alkyl)S-.

11. (Original) A compound of claim 10 wherein R¹ is chloride.

12. (Previously Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) A compound of claim 4 wherein R³ is aryl.

14. (Original) A compound of claim 1 having structure (II)



(II).

15. (Original) A compound of claim 14 wherein R¹ is selected from (C₁-₆alkyl)SO₂-, PhSO₂-, fluorinatedphenylSO₂-, PhCH₂SO₂-, cyclopentylSO₂-, m-carboxyphenylSO₂-, m-methylphenylSO₂-, and HOOC-(C₁-C₄alkylene)SO₂-.

16. (Original) A compound of claim 4 wherein R³ is benzyl or phenyl, the benzyl or phenyl having 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylamido, alkylcarbonyl, amido, benzyl optionally substituted with halogen, benzyloxy, carboxy, cyano, dialkylamido, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, oxoalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, thioalkyl, thiocyanate, and thiohaloalkyl.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is 6-Chloro-N-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

19. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is N-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-6-(2-hydroxy-ethylamino)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

20. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is 6-Bromo-N-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

21. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is 5,6-Dichloro-N-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

22. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is 6-Ethanesulfonyl-N-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

23. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is N-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-6-(propane-2-sulfonyl)-nicotinamide.

24. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is N-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-6-methanesulfonyl-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

25. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is 6-Benzenesulfonyl-N-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

26. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is N-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-6-phenylmethanesulfonyl-nicotinamide.

27. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is 6-Chloro-N-(3-chloro-4-fluoro-phenyl)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

28. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein said compound is 6-Chloro-N-(4-iodo-phenyl)-1-oxy-nicotinamide.

29. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from halogen, heteroalkyl or amino, R² is H, R³ is aryl and R⁴ is H.

30. (Previously Amended) A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or excipient.

31.-44. (Cancelled)